

Trump or Biden? Either way, U.S. seems poised to preserve heavy tariffs on imports



The United States Steel Mon Valley Works Clairton Plant in Clairton, Pa., is shown on Feb. 26, 2024.

Associated Press
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Trump or Biden? Either way, U.S. seems poised to preserve heavy tariffs on imports

From Front

By **PAUL WISEMAN**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — As president, Donald Trump imposed a 25% tariff on foreign steel, which hurt Clips & Clamps Industries, a Michigan auto supplier — raising its materials prices, making it harder to compete with overseas rivals and costing it several contracts. Jeff Aznavorian, the company president, thought he might enjoy relief once Joe Biden entered the White House. Instead, Biden largely preserved Trump's tariffs — on steel, aluminum and a mass of goods from China. "It was a little surprising that an ideologically different administration would keep the policies so intact," Aznavorian said.

Trump and Biden agree on essentially nothing, from taxes to immigration. Yet on trade, they have embraced surprisingly similar approaches. Which means that whether Biden or Trump wins the presidency, the United States seems poised to maintain a protectionist trade policy. Last week, in fact, Biden announced some new tariffs, on Chinese electric vehicles, advanced batteries and other products, that he said would keep Beijing from flooding the United States with cheap imports. The protectionist tilt reflects the widespread view that opening the nation to more imports — especially from China — wiped out American manufacturing jobs, a potent topic in the Midwestern industrial states that will likely decide who wins the White House.

"If you look at the election, it's obvious," said William Reinsch, a former trade official now at the Center for Stra-



The 2024 Ford F-150 truck is assembled at the Dearborn Truck Plant, April 11, 2024, in Dearborn, Mich.

tegic and International Studies. "Where are the deciding states? Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin — right there, you can see that trade is going to have an outsize role." In their own ways, the two candidates have ditched a U.S. commitment to frictionless trade — low barriers and scant government interference — that were a bedrock of American policy after World War II.

Yet trade protectionism carries economic risks. It can raise costs as the nation struggles to tame inflation. It can prop up inefficient companies. It provokes retaliation against American exports. And it sours relations with allies and adversaries alike. Trump, who brazenly labeled himself "Tariff Man," tried to pummel America's trading partners with import taxes, vowing to shrink America's trade deficits, especially with China. He did pressure Mexico and Canada into rewriting a North American trade deal that Trump in-

sisted had destroyed U.S. manufacturing jobs. He also persuaded China to agree to buy more American farm goods. But his efforts didn't revive the manufacturing base — factory jobs make up a smaller share of U.S. employment than they did before his presidency — or permanently shrink America's trade deficits.

Trump has vowed more of the same in a second term — a 10% tariff on all imports and a 60% tax on Chinese goods.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, warns that Trump's tariff plans "would spark higher inflation, reduce GDP and jobs and increase unemployment, all else equal." A year after the import taxes were imposed, Zandi estimates, average consumer prices would be 0.7 percentage points higher than they would otherwise be.

Biden favors subsidizing such U.S. key industries as chip-making and EV manufactur-

ing to give them a competitive edge. It's a stance that reflects worry that China's rising military and technological might imperils America's national security. As last week's announcement showed, Biden isn't averse to new tariffs, either.

"The laissez-faire economic model of trade wasn't working for the United States," said Elizabeth Baltzan, a senior adviser to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai. "We want to correct for that. The measures you take in order to get a fairer (economy) may involve measures that could be labeled protectionist." Dani Rodrik, a Harvard economist who was an early critic of globalization, views Biden trade policies more favorably than he does Trump's approach.

"Trump's was knee-jerk and incoherent; there is little evidence that his trade restrictions on China did any good to workers or the middle class in the U.S.," Rodrik said.

By contrast, he said, "Biden's

approach is strategic and based on rebuilding U.S. manufacturing capacity and investing in the green transition, so fundamentally strengthening the U.S. economy rather than crass protectionism."

Either way, a consensus has formed in recent years that U.S. trade policy had to change. David Autor, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and two colleagues concluded that from 1999 to 2011, cheap Chinese imports wiped out 2.4 million American jobs.

More recently, China's rise as America's No. 1 geopolitical rival has created a bipartisan effort to reduce America's reliance on Beijing for supplies of everything from pharmaceuticals to "rare earth" minerals used in electric cars and cellphones.

The sea change in policy started with Trump.

One of his first presidential acts was to dump a free trade agreement the Obama administration had negotiated with 11 Pacific Rim countries.

Then Trump imposed taxes on foreign washing machines, solar panels, aluminum and steel.

Finally, he hammered \$360 billion of Chinese products with tariffs for Beijing's efforts to surpass U.S. technological supremacy through illicit tactics. China lashed back with retaliatory taxes.

Did Trump's tariff war achieve anything?

A study by Autor and three colleagues concluded that Trump's import taxes failed in their goal to return jobs to the American heartland. The tariffs, the study found, "neither raised nor lowered U.S. employment" where they were supposed to protect jobs. □

Associated Press

Protesters against war in Gaza interrupt Blinken repeatedly in the Senate

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In wide-ranging testimony before the Senate Tuesday, Secretary of State Antony Blinken denounced the chief prosecutor of the world's top war crimes court for seeking the arrest of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and said that despite offering condolences for the death of Iran's president, it didn't change that leader's history of repression. Blinken, speaking to senators about the Biden administration's foreign affairs budget proposal, was repeatedly interrupted by protesters condemning U.S. policy toward its ally Israel and its war against Hamas in Gaza. The chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations and Senate Appropriations committees halted the hearings at least six

times while Blinken was delivering his opening statements as demonstrators stood up to shout their opposition to the administration's position and accused him of being a "war criminal" and being responsible for a "genocide" against the Palestinian people. Several silent protesters held up their hands, stained with red paint or dye, behind Blinken during his appearances. In his remarks and his responses to questions from senators, Blinken followed President Joe Biden and other administration officials in condemning the International Criminal Court's prosecutor for seeking arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant over actions taken during their seven-month war in Gaza. Blinken repeated the position

that the tribunal, which Israel and the U.S. do not recognize, does not have jurisdiction and that it was "extremely wrong-headed" for the prosecutor to equate the Israeli officials with the Hamas leaders that he is also seeking to indict. Senate Republicans have threatened sanctions against ICC personnel over the decision, but the administration has not yet taken a stand. Blinken, however, said the administration would work with lawmakers to come up with an appropriate response, should one be needed. Blinken lamented that some administration critics appeared to be overlooking Hamas' role in starting the war in Gaza with its deadly attacks on Israel on Oct. 7. A day after the State Department issued a statement ex-



People protest during a Senate Foreign Relations hearing as Secretary of State Antony Blinken, not shown, speaks to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of State, on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

pressing condolences for the deaths of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and others in a recent helicopter

crash, Blinken told senators that it was a typical gesture when "countries — adversaries, enemies or not — have lost leaders." □

Donald Trump's campaign says it will begin accepting contributions through cryptocurrency



Former President Donald Trump speaks alongside his attorney Todd Blanche following the day's proceedings in his trial Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in Manhattan Criminal Court in New York.

Associated Press

By FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's presidential campaign said Tuesday it would begin accepting donations in cryptocurrency as part of an effort to build what it calls a "crypto army" leading up to Election Day.

The Trump campaign launched a fundraising page that allows "any federally permissible donor the ability to give" to its political committees using any crypto asset accepted through the Coinbase cryptocurrency exchange.

The announcement promotes Trump's message that he is a crypto-friendly candidate, and also appeals to a core group of young male voters who are increasingly likely to dabble in digital assets. It came as Trump's defense rested in his hush money case in New York.

Cryptocurrencies are a digital asset that can be traded over the internet without relying on the global banking system. Trump's campaign is accepting a range of popular cryptocurrencies that include Bitcoin, Ether and US Dollar Coin, and also include the low-value coins that tend to be popular with Internet personalities like Shiba Inu Coin, and Dogecoin. Billionaire Elon Musk, most notably, is considered a fan of the latter two, traded on markets as DOGE and SHIB. □



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Denver launches ambitious migrant program, breaking from the short-term shelter approach

By **JESSE BEDAYN**

Associated Press/Report for America

DENVER (AP) — In a hotel conference room in Denver, Dallenis Martinez attended orientation with hundreds of other migrants Monday for the city's new, ambitious migrant support program, which includes six month apartment stays and intensive job preparation for those who can't yet legally work. It's an about-face from strategies Denver, New York City and Chicago have used as the cities scrambled to support thousands of migrants and slashed budgets. The largely improvised support strategies have included days- to weeks-long shelter stays or bus tickets to send migrants elsewhere.

Now, Martinez, 28, and her two young kids, along with some 650 others in Denver, are being set up with an apartment with six months of rental, food and utility assistance, a free computer, a prepaid cell phone and metro bus passes.

Then, the city working in coordination with several nonprofits plan to provide courses on English language, computers, financial literacy, and workers rights, while also assisting migrants in getting credentialed in specific in-

dustries, like construction, retail, hospitality, health-care and early childhood education. Martinez said she will take any job to support her kids. The support will also include help with the paperwork for asylum applications, and eventually work authorization. The goal of the new program is to act as a buffer for new arrivals who have to wait six months for a work permit after applying for asylum under federal law, using that time to prepare migrants for their new life.

"This is investing in people to set them up to be independent and thrive," said Sarah Plastino, who's overseeing the program. "We know that when we set people up for success, people really do succeed."

The city expects to enroll 800 migrants in the coming months, though only those who don't yet qualify for a work permit can enter this program.

Martinez, who's from Venezuela but was living in Peru when she started her journey north, didn't know she'd end up in a program like this. She didn't even know what the orientation was about when she first took a seat.

Martinez, who travelled with her 11-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter, arrived



People queue up to attend an orientation session for recent immigrants, Monday, May 20, 2024, in Denver.

Associated Press

in the U.S. with nothing. On the border of Guatemala and Mexico, she was robbed of the little money she had. Then, it happened again, and she had to hide in a river with her kids for two nights. "I was hungry, cold and scared," said Martinez, who turned herself in to U.S. immigration soon after crossing the border. "I couldn't take it anymore."

Halfway through the orientation, Martinez was excited. "Faith is the last thing you lose," she said, a smile broadening on her face. "I feel more hope with this program."

The mood was upbeat in the Denver Quality Inn; where most who attended the orientation were staying. The city has rented out several hotels to support the some 42,000 migrants who've arrived since the beginning of 2023. Now, the hotels are shuttered or winding down as the number of new migrants drops.

Over the last year, new arrivals strained the city's resources, as they did in Chicago and New York City, prompting the mayors to slash city budgets after unsuccessfully asking for more federal aid from President Joe Biden.

"We were hemorrhaging money. We had over 5,000 people a day in our shelter system, and it was completely financially unsustainable," said Plastino. "We knew we had to make a shift from reactive to proactive."

New York City officials said 197,100 immigrants have made their way there. Some 65,500 are currently in shelters. Since a federally-sponsored Asylum Application Help Center started assisting with immigration applications, some 50,000 applications have been submitted, including for asylum, work permits and other forms of immigration relief.

Even while Denver's new program is intensive, Plastino said it's still more cost effective. The city's costs for supporting migrants will be roughly half of what they had initially expected in January. Services like recreation centers will open once again after their funding was sliced to help afford the city's previous migrant housing strategy. Renting hotel rooms and paying for premade meals is more expensive than providing rental support for an apartment on the market and food assistance for grocery stores, Plastino said, adding, "It's also just the right thing to do." □



Crime scene tape still surrounds Schemengees Bar & Grille, Oct. 29, 2023, in Lewiston, Maine.

Associated Press

By **DAVID SHARP**

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — An independent commission investigating the deadliest shooting in Maine history plans to take up accusations in a report that contended self-dispatching police offi-

cers created "chaos" during the search for the gunman. But the commission may not address an allegation that deputies in an armored vehicle had been drinking before nearly crashing into another armored vehicle. Chairman Daniel Wathen

Report suggests some deputies responding to mass shooting were intoxicated

said commissioners intend to address some of the report's "disturbing allegations" while others are outside the panel's scope.

The panel reconvenes Friday to hear from witnesses on communications and coordination problems.

The after-action report by the leader of the Portland Police Department special response team indicated a Cumberland County tactical vehicle nearly crashed into a Portland police vehicle, something that could've claimed lives, while noting that officers showing up to help without being assigned to do so created the poten-

tial for more harm than good. "I have never seen the amount of self dispatching, federal involvement with plain clothes and utter chaos with self dispatching in my career," the tactical team leader, Nicholas Goodman, wrote in the partially redacted report, which The Associated Press obtained Tuesday through the state's Freedom of Access Act.

The Cumberland County sheriff refuted accusations that any of his deputies were intoxicated after the report indicated the armored vehicle skidded to a halt to avoid a crash that could've been fatal.

Both the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office and Portland Police Department tactical teams were responding to a location where the shooter's vehicle was abandoned by the Androscoggin River on the evening of Oct. 25, after the gunman, an Army reservist, killed 18 people and wounded 13 others at a bowling alley and a bar and grill in Lewiston.

The commission previously heard testimony from law enforcement officials about the chaotic hours after the shooting in which agencies mobilized for a search and police officers poured into the region. □

Israel says it will return video equipment seized from AP

By **JOSEF FEDERMAN and DANICA KIRKA**
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli government will return a camera and broadcasting equipment it had seized from The Associated Press on Tuesday, reversing course hours after it blocked the news organization's live video of Gaza and faced mounting criticism for interfering with independent journalism. The government seized the AP equipment positioned in southern Israel after accusing it of violating a new media law by providing images to the satellite channel Al Jazeera.

Israeli officials used the new law on May 5 to close down Qatar-based Al Jazeera within Israel, confiscating its equipment, banning its broadcasts and blocking its websites.

After Israel seized the AP equipment, the Biden administration, journalism organizations and an Israeli opposition leader condemned the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and pressured it to reverse the decision.

Israel's communications minister, Shlomo Karhi, said late Tuesday on the social platform X: "I have now ordered to cancel the action and return the equipment to the AP."

Karhi said the defense ministry will undertake a review of news outlets' positioning of live video of Gaza. Officials

hadn't previously told AP the positioning of its live camera was an issue. Instead, they repeatedly noted that the images appeared in real-time on Al Jazeera.

Al Jazeera is one of thousands of AP customers, and it receives live video from AP and other news organizations.

"While we are pleased with this development, we remain concerned about the Israeli government's use of the foreign broadcaster law and the ability of independent journalists to operate freely in Israel," said Lauren Easton, AP's vice president of corporate communications.

Officials from the Communications Ministry arrived at the AP location in the southern town of Sderot on Tuesday afternoon and seized the equipment. They handed the AP a piece of paper, signed by Karhi, alleging it was violating the country's foreign broadcaster law.

Shortly beforehand, AP was broadcasting a general view of northern Gaza. The AP complies with Israel's military censorship rules, which prohibit broadcasts of details like troop movements that could endanger soldiers. The live video has generally shown smoke rising over the territory. The AP had been ordered verbally last Thursday to cease the live transmission, which it refused to do.

Israel's opposition leader Yair Lapid called the government's move against AP

"an act of madness."

Karhi responded to Lapid that the law passed unanimously by the government states that any device used to deliver Al Jazeera content could be seized.

Journalism organizations condemned Israel's seizure of AP equipment, and the Biden administration also applied pressure.

"As soon as we learned about the reports, the White House and the State Department immediately engaged with the government of Israel at high levels to express our serious concern and ask them to reverse this action," said Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the National Security Council. "The free press is an essential pillar of democracy and members of the media, including AP, do vital work that must be respected."

When Israel closed down Al Jazeera's offices earlier this month, media groups warned of the serious implications for press freedom in the country.

"Israel's record on press freedom already has been dismal throughout the war," the Foreign Press Association said in a statement on Tuesday. "It has prevented independent access to Gaza for foreign journalists."

The AP live video shot from Sderot has provided a rare independent glimpse of the situation in Gaza.

Israel has long had a rocky relationship with Al Jazeera, accusing it of bias against



In this image from video, Israeli officials seize AP video equipment from an apartment block in Sderot, Southern Israel, Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

Associated Press

the country. Netanyahu has called it a "terror channel" that spreads incitement. Al Jazeera is one of the few international news outlets that has remained in Gaza throughout the war, broadcasting scenes of airstrikes and overcrowded hospitals and accusing Israel of massacres. AP is also in Gaza. During the previous Israel-Hamas war in 2021, the army destroyed the building housing AP's Gaza office, claiming Hamas had

used the building for military purposes. The AP denied any knowledge of a Hamas presence, and the army never provided any evidence to back up its claim.

The war in Gaza began with a Hamas attack in Israel that killed 1,200 people and saw 250 others taken hostage. More than 35,000 Palestinians have been killed since then, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. □



Houthi supporters sit in front of a giant Palestinian flag during a rally against the U.S.-led strikes against Yemen and in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, in Sanaa, Yemen, Friday, May 17, 2024.

Associated Press

By **SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen claimed on Tuesday that they shot down an American

drone over the country on the Arabian Peninsula. The U.S. military acknowledged reports about the downing but didn't comment.

If confirmed, it would be the

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claim they shot down another U.S. drone

second MQ-9 Reaper drone downed by the Houthis over the past week as they press their campaign over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. Last Friday, the Houthis claimed downing an American drone over the province of Marib, hours after footage circulated online of what appeared to be the wreckage of an MQ-9 Reaper.

In a statement, Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said the latest drone was shot down with a locally made surface-to-air missile. He alleged the drone

"was carrying out hostile missions" over Yemen's southern province of Bayda. Footage released by the Houthis purportedly showing the attack indicated that the downing took place Sunday.

Responding to an Associated Press inquiry, the U.S. military's Central Command acknowledged reports about the downing but declined to comment. Since Yemen's civil war started in 2014, when the Houthis seized most of the country's north and its capital of Sanaa, the U.S. military has lost at least five drones to the

rebels. Reapers cost around \$30 million apiece. They can fly at altitudes up to 50,000 feet (about 15,000 meters) and have an endurance of up to 24 hours before needing to land. The Houthis in recent months have stepped up attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, demanding that Israel ends the war in Gaza, which has killed more than 35,000 Palestinians there. The war began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking some 250 hostage. □

Report says China is accelerating the forced urbanization of rural Tibetans



People rest in the shade beneath a government propaganda banner in Chinese and Tibetan near a neighborhood Tibetan Buddhist shrine in the Chengguan district of Lhasa in western China's Tibet Autonomous Region, as seen during a rare government-led tour of the region for foreign journalists, Thursday, June 3, 2021.

Associated Press

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — An extensive report by Human Rights Watch says China is accelerating the forced urbanization of Tibetan villagers and herders, adding to state government and independent reports of efforts to assimilate them through control over their language and traditional Buddhist culture.

The non-profit organization cited a trove of Chinese internal reports contradicting official pronouncements that all Tibetans who have been forced to move, with their past homes destroyed on departure, did so voluntarily.

The relocations fit a pattern of often-violent demands that ethnic minorities adopt the state language of Mandarin and pledge their fealty to the ruling Communist Party in western and northern territories that include millions of Tibetan, Xinjiang Uyghur, Mongolian and other minorities.

China claims Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, although it only established firm control over the Himalayan region after the Communist Party swept to power amid civil war in 1949. "These coercive tactics can be traced to pressure placed on local officials by higher-level authorities who routinely characterize the relocation program as a non-negotiable, politically critical policy coming straight from the national capital,

Beijing, or from Lhasa, the regional capital," HRW said in its report. "This leaves local officials no flexibility in implementation at the local level and requires them to obtain 100 percent agreement from affected villagers to relocate."

The report said official statistics suggest that by the end of 2025, more than 930,000 rural Tibetans will have been relocated to urban centers where they are deprived of their traditional sources of income and have difficulty finding work. Tibet's regional capital Lhasa and other large towns have drawn large numbers of migrants from China's dominant Han ethnic group who dominant politics and the economy. More than three million of the more than 4.5 million Tibetans in rural areas have been forced to build homes and give up their traditional nomadic lifestyles based on yak herding and agriculture, the report said. Along with the official Tibetan Autonomous Region, Tibetans make up communities in the neighboring provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan and Qinghai.

"These relocations of rural communities erode or cause major damage to Tibetan culture and ways of life, not least because most relocation programs in Tibet move former farmers and pastoralists to areas where they cannot practice their former livelihood and have no choice but to seek work as wage laborers in off-farm

industries," HRW said.

China has consistently defended its policies in Tibet as bringing stability and development to a strategically important border region. The region last saw anti-government protests in 2008, leading to a massive military crackdown. Foreigners must apply for special permission to visit and journalists are largely barred, apart from those working for Chinese state media outlets.

China regularly refutes accusations against human rights conditions in the Tibetan regions as "groundless accusations" that serve to "smear" China's image. Last August, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that the "human rights conditions in Tibet are at their historical best."

"The region has long enjoyed a booming economy, a harmonious and stable society, and effective protection and promotion of cultural heritage" Wang said at a daily ministry press briefing. "The rights and freedoms of all ethnic groups, including the freedom of religious belief and the freedom to use and develop their ethnic groups of spoken and written languages are fully guaranteed."

China, with its population of 1.3 billion people, claims to have eradicated extreme poverty, largely through moving isolated homes and tiny villages into larger communities with better access to transport, electricity, healthcare and education. Those claims have not been independently verified.

China's economic growth has slowed considerably amid a population that is aging and a youth unemployment rate that has spiked, even as Chinese industries such as EV cars and mobile phones build their market shares overseas.

In its report, HRW said it would "offer support to academic institutions to conduct and publish regular and independent academic surveys of people's views both prior to relocation and afterwards, and take corrective action based on their views." □

Hundreds of hostages, mostly women and children, are rescued from Boko Haram extremists in Nigeria



Women and children who were held captive by Islamic extremists, and rescued by Nigeria's army, are seen upon arrival in Maiduguri, Nigeria, Monday, May 20, 2024.

Associated Press

By HARUNA UMAR

Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) — Hundreds of hostages, mostly children and women, who were held captive for months or years by Boko Haram extremists in northeastern Nigeria have been rescued from a forest enclave and handed over to authorities, the army said.

The 350 hostages had been held in the Sambisa Forest, a hideout for the extremist group which launched an insurgency in 2009. Maj. Gen. Ken Chigbu, a senior Nigerian army officer, said late Monday while presenting them to authorities in Borno, where the forest is.

The 209 children, 135 women and six men appeared exhausted in their worn-out clothes. Some of the girls had babies believed to have been born from forced marriages, as is often the case with female victims who are either raped or forced to marry the militants while in captivity.

One of the hostages had seven children and spoke of how she and others couldn't escape because of their children.

"I always wanted to escape but couldn't because of the children," said Hajara Umara, who was rescued together with her children. "If they caught you trying to escape, they would torture you and imprison you indefinitely."

The army said the hostages were rescued during a day-long military operation in Sambisa Forest, which was once a bustling forest reserve that stretches along the border with Cameroon and Niger, but now serves as an enclave from where Boko Haram and its breakaway factions carry out attacks that also target people and security forces in neighboring countries.

The freed hostages were transported in trucks to the Borno state government house, where authorities will look after them until they go home.

Some extremists were killed during the rescue operation and their makeshift houses were destroyed, the army said.

Boko Haram, Nigeria's homegrown jihadi rebels, launched its insurgency in 2009 to establish Islamic Shariah law in the country. At least 35,000 people have been killed and 2.1 million people displaced as a result of the extremist violence, according to U.N. agencies in Nigeria. At least 1,400 students have been taken from Nigerian schools since the 2014 kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls by Boko Haram militants in the village of Chibok in Borno state shocked the world. In recent years, abductions have been concentrated in the country's conflict-battered northwestern and central regions, where dozens of armed groups often target villagers and travelers for ransom. □

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About LIV Casino, Barcelo Aruba: LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barcelo Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 11 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. □

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* International minutes and SMS includes calls and text to other providers and the following countries: Bonaire, Canada, Colombia, Curacao, Seba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, The Netherlands, Panama, USA.

Stay Connected and Relaxed with SETAR in Aruba!

SETAR, the island's premier Telecom provider, is a pioneer in shaping connectivity in Aruba. SETAR has become indispensable to Aruba's vibrant tech landscape by delivering lightning-fast networks to local communities and visitors. The island is transforming with SETAR's ambitious project to convert the entire island to fiber, revolutionizing how Aruba stays connected, and marking a significant leap in innovation and firmly establishing Aruba as one of the most technologically advanced islands in the Caribbean.

With stores around the island and services designed to keep all visitors connected, whether they're coming for vacation or work, SETAR ensures you stay in touch effortlessly. Revel in the high speed Internet on Aruba's exceptional Fixed and Mobile Networks, ensuring you're connected wherever your adventure takes you.

Are you eager to start your experience? Start by purchasing your SETAR Tourist SIM at the TeleKiosk in the Arrival Hall of Aruba's Airport.

Tourist SIM

Paradise awaits in Aruba, and SETAR, is here to enhance your tropical adventure with our exclusive

Tourist Bundles! Stay connected, share the magic, and make the most of your Aruban escape with seamless communication.

Tourist Bundles to Suit Your Journey:

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- 50 SMS Local and International
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- For only \$50

When purchasing the bundle for the first time at one of our stores, the Tourist SIM card is FREE and is tailored for visitors staying a few weeks in Aruba.

For visitors staying longer on the island, SETAR offers a flexible Prepaid option that allows you to buy credit conveniently at any Tele-shop, gas station, minimarket, or supermarket. This prepaid credit

provides you the freedom to call anytime or choose from the different Prepaid bundles SETAR offers: Data Bundles: Stay connected with high-speed Internet and choose from various data options to suit your needs.

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Are you planning a trip to Aruba that blends business with leisure, or perhaps seeking a remote work setup? Whether you're coming to Aruba for business or to embrace a 'workcation,' SETAR has tailored solutions to ensure seamless and uninterrupted connectivity during your stay.

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plans without worrying about additional charges and you can use it anywhere on the island. It is easy to use and access. Choose the bundle that suits your budget and needs.

Explore the options that best suit your Workcation in Aruba:

1 Day Plan:

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- Valid for 1Day or upon depletion of your bundle
- \$5.55

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- 50GB Data
- Valid for 7Day or upon depletion of your bundle
- \$20

30 Days Plan:

- 75GB Data
- Valid for 30Day or upon depletion of your bundle
- \$55.50

Imagine strolling along the Aruban beaches after a productive workday or unwinding with a picturesque sunset as your backdrop to a successful day's work. Experience the ideal blend of work and relaxation in Aruba, supported by SETAR's seamless connectivity. Let us make your stay in Aruba an experience like no other. □

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Dutch Village!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors

Mr. Robert & Mrs. Marianne Gagne from Boston, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Dutch Village bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's People.
- "Amazing staff at Divi".
- "Love To bring family members to the island"
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's beaches.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

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Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors
The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar
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Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more

than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is

the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a



place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down

buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Oranjestad Proclamation

Episode CCLIV - 256

Every week in this space, we share a story about Aruba through the eyes of Etnia Nativa, a local spot that links you to the mystical past, the island's ethnic heritage, and colonial history. During this episode, we introduce you to Jacob Thielen I, a prominent figure from the colonial era who proposed the name "Oranjestad" for our capital city.

After the construction of Fort Zoutman was completed in 1797, Europeans, or white people, came to live in Playa. White Protestants who settled until then in Ponton gradually began to build their stone houses on the bay side, located on a lower level. Ponton was spacious and offered a strategic view of the south and west coasts, but in those days, it was too far from where the ships entered. In 1797—we know this accurately—there was not a single stone house at Playa or the Paardebaai. Eight years later, therefore, in 1805, there were as many as 32.

At that time, Vice Commander Jan van der Biest from Fort Zoutman headed the administration of Aruba, who continued in the position of acting commander until, in 1821, Jacob Thielen I was appointed commander. Thielen, who descended from a family that had already resided in Curacao since 1715 and was a member of the Court of Justice of Curacao, serving as a lawyer and secretary, appeared before the vice-commander Jan van der Biest on December 23, 1821, assuming the position of vice-commander on January 1, 1822, being saluted by eleven cannons. Jacob Thielen I was the son of a prominent family that had settled in Curaçao a few generations before. As Secretary of Justice, the Council of Curaçao favored Jacob's conditions to bring the necessary reforms to our island. His dedication and work favoring economic growth led to the implementation of fundamental and necessary changes, such as the government



regulations of 1823. It was on August 3rd, 1824—a fact known due to direct family history—that Jacob Thielen I proposed the name Oranjestad (Orange City) to the town located on Horse's Bay. A name that, as soon as it was heard, was acclaimed by all people during that occasion, which without exception burst into cheers of "Long live Oranjestad!" "May it grow and prosper."

Before 1790, the south of Savaneta was the capital of Aruba, but Oranjestad turned out to be more accessible for ships to lay anchor.

What remains of that ancient capital Oranjestad proclaimed by Jacob Thielen I are a few buildings, such as the well-known Fort Zoutman, which dates back to 1796 and whose outer walls constitute the oldest building in Aruba (Island Insight episode 214: "Aruban Fort, two in one"). The tower located in front of the fort and current entrance was built in 1868 to meet the need for a public clock and had nothing to do with the fort. Once its construction was completed, it was converted

into a lighthouse, with a clock installed in 1929. It functioned as a lighthouse until 1963, when the western entrance to the port was inaugurated. As an inscription on the tower, the initials W III will catch your attention, meaning William III, in honor of the reigning Dutch king during its construction.

If you are interested in exploring Aruba's deep heritage, Etnia Nativa is the place to visit because it is a "cabinet of curiosities" (Island Insight episode 211: "Island cabinet of curiosities"). A first-hand expert, chief cultural contributor to this newspaper, and direct descendant of the late Thielen family guides every visitor. Etnia Nativa sets itself apart from the rest as a hidden gem by offering a personal native touch that adds depth and authenticity to your destination experience, providing its visitors the opportunity to enjoy a diverse array of artworks, objects, artifacts, dissected animals, plants, historical colonial furniture, etc. while diving to the navel of Aruba. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 or etniana03@gmail.com. □



Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then



you need to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The

basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt!



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Say "nay," say
- 5 Deep bow
- 11 Touch on
- 12 Kenya neighbor
- 13 Ticked off
- 14 Trusted teacher
- 15 Toe count
- 16 James Brown genre
- 17 Blow one's top
- 19 Lingerie item
- 22 Fragrant wood
- 24 Young pigeon
- 26 Full range
- 27 Spur on
- 28 More loyal
- 30 Singer Jackson
- 31 Part of a match
- 32 Radiate
- 34 National symbol
- 35 Cotillion girl
- 38 Insect midsection
- 41 Toy on a string
- 42 Land of the lei
- 43 Marseille money
- 44 Corrects
- 45 Rose part

DOWN

- 1 Sweeping
- 2 Bassoon's kin
- 3 Showed up
- 4 Summer, in Paris
- 5 Recap
- 6 Hollywood workers
- 7 Gaunt
- 8 Leaf lifter
- 9 Bother
- 10 Spoil
- 16 Koala coat
- 18 Tear down
- 19 Exhausted from overwork
- 20 Latest fad
- 21 Aid illegally
- 22 Purr producers
- 23 To be, in Paris
- 25 Campus area
- 29 Put down again
- 30 Moon-shine holder
- 33 Cartesian coordinate line
- 34 Football's Tarkenton
- 36 Jane of fiction
- 37 Cannon sound
- 38 Start of many titles
- 39 Deli meat
- 40 Need to pay
- 41 "Sure thing!"

F	E	T	A		S	O	A	P	S
A	X	I	O	M		I	N	S	E
T	I	C	K	E	T	T	A	K	E
E	L	K		T	O	E		S	P
S	E	E	S	T	O		T	I	E
	D	R	O	L	L		A	N	D
		R	E	M	A	P			
S	H	O	T		A	M	A	S	S
T	A	R	S		K	O	S	H	E
A	M	A		B	E	E		A	R
G	I	N	G	E	R	B	A	K	E
E	L	G	A	R		A	R	E	N
S	L	E	P	T		F	R	A	N

Yesterday's answer

- 23 To be, in Paris
- 25 Campus area
- 29 Put down again
- 30 Moon-shine holder
- 33 Cartesian coordinate line
- 34 Football's Tarkenton
- 36 Jane of fiction
- 37 Cannon sound
- 38 Start of many titles
- 39 Deli meat
- 40 Need to pay
- 41 "Sure thing!"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15				16						
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31				32	33					
			34					35	36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

5-22

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

J B Z P N H E E H K Z G E B D R J
I R B B Z B B ; E N Z P R R V B P R J K V
Q Z U Z S D B A K Z G E A T G R
Q A S V B B H G O E N Z S Z Z W M Z I E
E N R B Z E N H E B H G O Q Z B E .
— N Z G S D U H G V D F Z

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THAT'S THE THING ABOUT BOOKS. THEY LET YOU TRAVEL WITHOUT MOVING YOUR FEET. — JHUMPA I. AHIRI. "THE NAMESAKE"

Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 28 2024

TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 08.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 13.00	21.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
MON	27	ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Microsoft's AI chatbot will 'recall' everything you do on a PC



Brett Ostrum, Microsoft corporate vice president of Surface, holds up the new Surface Laptop and Surface Pro with built-in AI hardware during a showcase event of the company's AI assistant, Copilot, at Microsoft headquarters, Monday, May 20, 2024, in Redmond, Wash.

Associated Press

MATT O'BRIEN
REDMOND, Wash. (AP) — Microsoft wants laptop users to get so comfortable with its artificial intelligence chatbot that it will remember everything you're doing on your computer and help figure out what you want to do next.

The software giant on Monday revealed a new class of AI-imbued personal computers as it confronts heightened competition from Big Tech rivals in pitching generative AI technology that can compose documents, make images and serve as a lifelike personal assistant at work or home.

The announcements ahead of Microsoft's annual Build developer conference centered on fusing its AI assistant, called Copilot, into the Windows operating system for PCs, where Microsoft already has the eyes of millions of consumers.

The new features will include Windows Recall, giving the AI assistant what Microsoft describes as "photographic memory" of a person's virtual activity. Microsoft promises to protect users' privacy by giving them the option to filter out what they don't want tracked, and keeping the tracking on the device. It's a step toward machines that "instantly see us, hear, reason about our intent and our surroundings," said CEO Satya Nadella.

"We're entering this new era where computers not only understand us, but can actually anticipate what we want and our intent,"

Nadella said at an event at the company's headquarters in Redmond, Washington. The conference that starts Tuesday in Seattle follows big AI announcements last week from rival Google, as well as Microsoft's close business partner OpenAI, which built the AI large language models on which Microsoft's Copilot is based.

Google rolled out a retooled search engine that periodically puts AI-generated summaries over website links at the top of the results page; while also showing off a still-in-development AI assistant Astra that will be able to "see" and converse about things shown through a smartphone's camera lens. ChatGPT-maker OpenAI unveiled a new version of its chatbot last week, demonstrating an AI voice assistant with human characteristics

that can banter about what someone's wearing and even attempt to assess a person's emotions. The voice sounded so much like Scarlett Johansson playing an AI character in the sci-fi movie "Her" that OpenAI dropped the voice from its collection Monday.

OpenAI also rolled out a new desktop version of ChatGPT designed for Apple's Mac computers.

Next up is Apple's own annual developers conference in June. Apple CEO Tim Cook signaled at the company's annual shareholder meeting in February that it has been making big investments in generative AI.

Some of Microsoft's announcements Monday appeared designed to blunt whatever Apple has in store. The newly AI-enhanced Windows PCs will start rolling out on June 18 on computers made by Microsoft partners Acer, ASUS, Dell, HP, Lenovo and Samsung, as well as on Microsoft's Surface line of devices. But they'll be reserved for premium models starting at \$999.

While Copilot is rooted in OpenAI's large language models, Microsoft said the new AI PCs will also rely heavily on its own home-grown "small language models" that are designed to be more efficient and able to more easily run on a consumer's personal device. Powered by Qualcomm chips, many of the computers will end up in the hands

of workers at big organizations looking to refresh their inventory, said Gartner analyst Jason Wong. □

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Week 20

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(two bedrooms)
Price range: \$8,100.00

WEEK 20
Ambassador unit
(one bedroom)
Price range:
\$3,600.00 - \$4,500.00

Presidential suites
(two bedrooms)
Price range: \$8,100.00 - \$8,760.00

WEEK 21
Ambassador unit
(one bedroom)
Price range:
\$3,600.00 - \$4,500.00

Presidential suites
(two bedrooms)
Price range: \$8,100.00 - \$8,760.00

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San Nicolas:

San Nicolas: Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

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Red Cross	582 2219

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Surinam	582 7896

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Scarlett Johansson says a ChatGPT voice is 'eerily similar' to hers and OpenAI is halting its use

By **WYATTE G.-PHILIPS**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — OpenAI on Monday said it plans to halt the use of one of its ChatGPT voices that "Her" actor Scarlett Johansson says sounds "eerily similar" to her own. In a post on the social media platform X, OpenAI said it is "working to pause" Sky — the name of one of five voices that ChatGPT users can choose to speak with. The company said it had "heard questions" about how it selects the lifelike audio options available for its flagship artificial intelligence chatbot, particularly Sky, and wanted to address them. Among those raising questions was Johansson, who famously voiced a fictional, and at the time futuristic, AI assistant in the 2013 film "Her." Johansson issued a statement saying that OpenAI CEO Sam Altman had approached her in September asking her if she would lend her voice to the system, saying he felt it would be "comforting to people" not at ease with the technology. She said she declined the offer. "When I heard the released demo, I was shocked, angered and in disbelief that Mr. Altman would pursue a voice that sounded so eerily similar to mine that my closest friends and news outlets could not tell the difference," Johansson said. She said OpenAI "reluctantly" agreed to take down the Sky

voice after she hired lawyers who wrote Altman letters asking about the process by which the company came up with the voice. OpenAI had moved to debunk the internet's theories about Johansson in a blog post accompanying its earlier announcement aimed at detailing how ChatGPT's voices were chosen. The company wrote that it believed AI voices "should not deliberately mimic a celebrity's distinctive voice" and that the voice of Sky belongs to a "different professional actress." But it added that it could not share the name of that professional for privacy reasons. In a statement sent to The Associated Press following Johansson's response late Monday, Altman said that OpenAI cast the voice actor behind Sky "before any outreach" to Johansson. "The voice of Sky is not Scarlett Johansson's, and it was never intended to resemble hers," Altman said. "Out of respect for Ms. Johansson, we have paused using Sky's voice in our products. We are sorry to Ms. Johansson that we didn't communicate better." San Francisco-based OpenAI first rolled out voice capabilities for ChatGPT, which included the five different voices, in September, allowing users to engage in back-to-forth conversation with the AI assistant. "Voice Mode" was originally just



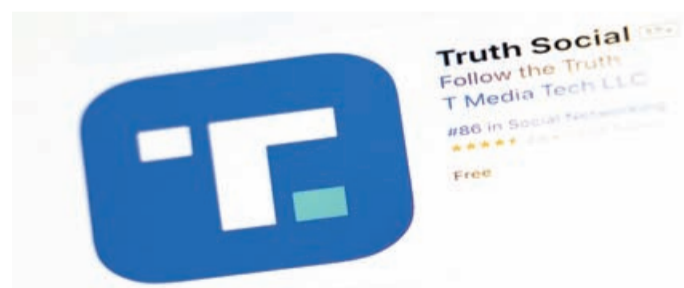
Scarlett Johansson poses for photographers at the photo call for the film "Asteroid City" at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, May 24, 2023.

Associated Press

available to paid subscribers, but in November, OpenAI announced that the feature would become free for all users with the mobile app. And ChatGPT's interactions are becoming more and more sophisticated. Last week, OpenAI said the latest update to its generative AI model can mimic human cadences in its verbal responses and can even try to detect people's moods. OpenAI says the newest model, dubbed GPT-4o, works faster than previous versions and can reason across text, audio and video in real time. In a demonstration during OpenAI's May 13 announcement, the AI bot chatted in real time, adding emotion — specifically "more drama" — to its voice as requested. It also took a stab at extrapolating a person's

emotional state by looking at a selfie video of their face, aided in language translations, step-by-step math problems and more. GPT-4o, short for "omni," isn't widely available yet. It will progressively make its way to select users in the coming weeks and months. The model's text and image capabilities have already begun rolling out, and is set to reach even some of those that use ChatGPT's free tier — but the new voice mode will just be available for paid subscribers of ChatGPT Plus. While most have yet to get their hands on these newly announced features, the capabilities have conjured up even more comparisons to the Spike Jonze's dystopian romance "Her," which follows an introverted man (Joaquin Phoenix) who falls

in love with an AI-operating system (Johansson), leading to many complications. Altman appeared to tap into this, too — simply posting the word "her" on the social media platform X the day of GPT-4o's unveiling. Many reacting to the model's demos last week also found some of the interactions struck a strangely flirtatious tone. In one video posted by OpenAI, a female-voiced ChatGPT compliments a company employee on "rocking an OpenAI hoodie," for example, and in another the chatbot says "oh stop it, you're making me blush" after being told that it's amazing. That's sparked some conversation on the gendered ways critics say tech companies have long used to develop and engage voice assistants — dating back far before the latest wave of generative AI advanced the capabilities of AI chatbots. In 2019, the United Nations' culture and science organization pointed to "hardwired subservience" built into default female-voiced assistants (like Apple's Siri to Amazon's Alexa), even when confronted with sexist insults and harassment. "This is clearly programmed to feed dudes' egos," The Daily Show senior correspondent Desi Lydic said of GPT-4o in a segment last week. "You can really tell that a man built this tech." □



The download screen for Truth Social app is seen on a laptop computer, March 20, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Trump Media and Technology Group, the owner of former President Donald Trump's social networking site Truth Social, lost more than \$300 million last quarter, according to its first earnings report as a publicly traded com-

pany. For the three-month period that ended March 31, the company posted a loss of \$327.6 million, which it said included \$311 million in non-cash expenses related to its merger with a company called Digital World Acquisition Corp., which was essen-

Trump Media and Technology Group posts more than \$300 million net loss in first public quarter

tially a pile of cash looking for a target to merge with. It's an example of what's called a special purpose acquisition company, or SPAC, which can give young companies quicker and easier routes to getting their shares trading publicly. A year earlier, Trump Media posted a loss of \$210,300. Trump Media said collected \$770,500 in revenue in the first quarter, largely from its "nascent advertising initiative." That was down from \$1.1 million a year earlier.

"At this early stage in the Company's development, TMTG remains focused on long-term product development, rather than quarterly revenue," Trump Media said in its earnings news release. Earlier this month, the company fired an auditor that federal regulators recently charged with "massive fraud." The former president's media company dismissed BF Borgers as its independent public accounting firm on May 3, delaying the filing of the quarterly earn-

ings report, according to a securities filing. Trump Media had previously cycled through at least two other auditors — one that resigned in July 2023, and another that was terminated its the board in March, just as it was re-hiring BF Borgers. Shares of Trump Media climbed 36 cents to \$48.74 in after-hours trading. The stock, which trades under the ticker symbol "DJT," began trading on Nasdaq in March and peaked at nearly \$80 in late March. □



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Pogacar extends Giro lead to over 7 minutes after winning altered Stage 16 amid protests at start



Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the pink jersey of the race overall leader, indicates five, the numbers of Giro' stages he has won so far, as he crosses the finish line to win the 16th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, from Livigno to Santa Cristina Val Gardena (Monte Pana), Italy, Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

Associated Press

SANTA CRISTINA, Italy (AP) — After a chaotic, wet and unusual start to the 16th stage of the Giro d'Italia, there was a familiar sight at the finish on Tuesday.

Tadej Pogacar won on a much-altered 118.4 kilometers (73.6 miles) route from Laas, and following protests at the start, to extend his considerable advantage to over seven minutes.

The Slovenian cycling star counted up the stage wins on his fingers — five — and then raised up his hand as he crossed the line at Santa Cristina Valgardena, 16 seconds ahead of Giulio Pellizzari and Daniel Martinez.

Pogacar's win seemed inevitable when the two-time Tour de France winner made his attack on the steep climb to the finish with 1.3 kilometers remaining and he made it look easy.

The UAE Team Emirates rider was 23 seconds behind Pellizzari but he passed him with 0.7 kilometers remaining and soloed to the finish.

The 20-year-old Pellizzari asked Pogacar for his sunglasses at the finish line and

the Slovenian gave him his pink jersey too amid smiles and hugs between the pair. Pogacar already had the biggest Giro advantage in seven decades and he extended that to seven minutes, 18 seconds over Martinez, who moved into second.

Geraint Thomas slipped to third, 7:40 behind.

Pogacar's teammate, Rafal Majka, admitted they didn't even plan on winning the stage but took advantage of the pace set by Movistar in the peloton.

"Tadej wanted that I go for the stage but actually I pulled already before, then I was a little bit tired, so I said 'Go on man, win another stage' so chapeau," Majka said. "But really today we didn't want to go for the stage but when it is other teams pulling and we are still there with guys, then why not?"

Tuesday's route was altered last week because of a high risk of avalanches on the Stelvio.

The riders were still scheduled to go partly up the famed ascent on a 206-kilometer

(128-mile) leg from Livigno but cut across to Switzerland on the Umbrail Pass before joining the original route.

However, with heavy snowfall on the Stelvio as well as wet and freezing conditions, there was a standoff between race organizers RCS and riders, who wanted to start after the pass and cut out the Stelvio completely — especially as the weather made the 20-kilometer descent even more dangerous. RCS wanted them to do the climb and then get in the cars for the descent before climbing back on their bikes.

"I'd like to see him (race director Mauro Vegni) in our position, go outside on the bike and do the start of the stage and see what his answer is after those couple of hours," Ben O'Connor, who was fifth overall, told Eurosport amid the uncertainty. There was confusion before the scheduled start and, with worsening weather, RCS agreed to remove the Umbrail Pass but still roll out of Livigno as planned and cover a neutralized 18 kilometers until the Munt Raschera tunnel.

But even this plan was scrapped as the riders wanted to avoid getting cold and wet before the transfer to the proper start point.

"Despite a handshake between the parties, the athletes did not show up at the start in Livigno," RCS said in a statement.

The start of the race had already been delayed several times with many of the riders waiting under tents to shelter from the snow amid all the confusion.

They eventually left Livigno in team cars and vans as most of the team buses had already set off for the finish. □

Wembanyama becomes 1st NBA rookie to make first-team All-Defense



San Antonio Spurs center Victor Wembanyama (1) shoots in front of Memphis Grizzlies forward GG Jackson (45) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Victor Wembanyama's latest accolade was like none other. The San Antonio center has become the first player in NBA history to make the league's All-Defensive first team as a rookie. The league announced the teams on Tuesday, and Wembanyama appeared on 98 of the 99 ballots cast.

Defensive player of the year Rudy Gobert of Minnesota headlined the team and was the only unanimous selection. He was joined on the first team by Wembanyama, Miami's Bam Adebayo, New Orleans' Herb Jones and the Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis.

"Coming into this league, obviously he had high expectations because he's 7-3 and shooting step-back 3s. I think a lot of people paid attention more to that than what he actually did on the defensive end," Adebayo said of Wembanyama. "So, for him to get first-team, first come around, it's obviously a great accolade for him."

The second-team All-Defense picks were Chicago's Alex Caruso, Orlando's Jalen Suggs, Minnesota's Jaden McDaniels

and Boston teammates Derrick White and Jrue Holiday. It was Gobert's seventh All-Defense pick, all of them as a member of the first team. Davis is now a five-time All-Defense player, and a three-time first-team selection. Adebayo made All-Defense for the fifth time, and his first as a member of the first team. Jones made the team for the first time.

"I feel it's a long time coming, obviously," Adebayo said of his first first-team nod. "Just staying in this moment, enjoying it, blessed to be able to be one of the ones selected." Wembanyama is now the sixth rookie in NBA history to make the All-Defensive Team — with the other five all earning second-team nods in their first seasons. Those five were San Antonio's Tim Duncan in 1998, the Spurs' David Robinson in 1990, Washington's Manute Bol (1986), Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon (1985) and Milwaukee's Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1970).

The All-NBA team will be revealed Wednesday. If Wembanyama makes that team, he would be the first rookie to earn that distinction since Duncan did 26 years ago. □

NHL will have a new Stanley Cup champion this century as lengthy droughts take center stage

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

No matter which team wins the Stanley Cup championship this year it will be a first this century.

The Dallas Stars won the franchise's lone championship in 1999, months before the world worried computers would malfunction at the start of a new millennium.

The New York Rangers haven't done it since their magical run in 1994 that ended a 54-year title drought.

The Edmonton Oilers have not done it since the last title of their dynasty in 1990, seven years before current star Connor McDavid was born. The Florida Panthers have never won the Cup since their inception in 1993, when hockey in the U.S. Sun Belt was just starting to become a reality.

"It's something that these all markets are starving for," said Mike Rupp, a NHL Network analyst whose three-point Game 7 performance in 2003 gave New Jersey its third championship. "I love seeing new blood in it."

New blood when it comes to a title but not unfamiliar with this stage of the playoffs. Florida and Dallas were each in their respective conference finals last year (Florida advanced to the



Dallas Stars center Matt Duchene, front, celebrates scoring the winning goal as defensemen Esa Lindell, back left, and Chris Tanev look on in the second overtime of Game 6 of an NHL hockey playoff series against the Colorado Avalanche Friday, May 17, 2024, in Denver.

Associated Press

Final, too), while New York and Edmonton are back after getting there in 2022.

Thirteen different teams have hoisted the Cup since 1999, including Chicago, Pittsburgh and Tampa Bay doing it three times, and New Jersey, Colorado and Los Angeles twice each.

The more things change ... None of the remaining teams has had the same coach for more than the past two seasons.

Paul Maurice took over the Panthers and Peter DeBoer the Stars in the summer of 2022. Peter Laviolette got the Rangers' job less than a year ago. Kris Knoblauch was an early-season replacement for the Oilers in November. Part of that is just the cyclical nature of coaching changes in hockey, though the high volume over the past 18 months has gotten the attention of the fraternity, with DeBoer calling it "insanity."

There's still value in experience, though, with Knoblauch the only first-time NHL head coach in the final four. He is eight wins away from being the fourth coach hired in-season to win the Cup that year. Laviolette is in his sixth head coaching job. He coached Carolina to the Stanley Cup championship in 2006 and took Philadelphia in 2010 and Nashville in 2017 to the final. DeBoer has two trips to the final on his resume: 2012 with

New Jersey and 2016 with San Jose. No one has coached more NHL regular-season and playoff games without winning the Cup than Maurice with 1,973.

... the more they stay the same This isn't quite like the Tampa Bay Lightning going back to back in 2020 and '21 and reaching the final in '22, but these teams have all played a lot of playoff hockey in recent years.

Counting their bubble run to the Cup Final four years ago, the Stars have been in 79 playoff games dating to 2019.

"Dallas has been a good team for a long time, just never able to kind of get over the hump and had some really tough paths in the playoffs," Rupp said.

McDavid and the Oilers have played 54 postseason games since 2020, their first of five consecutive postseason appearances, with an asterisk on the expanded pandemic format.

The Panthers, who have played 52 over the past five playoffs, have usurped the Lightning as the best team in Florida, including knocking their cross-state rivals out in the first round this year. They're now co-Cup favorites along with Dallas, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. □



NFC quarterback Baker Mayfield, of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, throws against the AFC during the flag football event at the NFL Pro Bowl football game Feb. 4, 2024, in Orlando, Fla.

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL has taken another step in its commitment to growing flag football.

The league hired Stephanie Kwok to a newly created position of vice president, head

of flag football. Kwok, an entrepreneurial leader, flag football player and graduate of Harvard Business School, will be responsible for driving growth, including domestic and international participation, fan engagement, and

NFL increases its commitment to flag football, creating a new VP position to help grow the sport

commercial and media partnerships."So much great work has already been done to grow the game of flag, but continuing to help grow it, it's so exciting," Kwok told the AP. "With flag in the LA Olympics, it feels like that's a really big opportunity to be growing the game. I played flag football myself for the last 10-plus years so just being able to have more kids have the opportunity to play ... and being able to spread that more and make flag even more accessible and inclusive is really exciting." Kwok most recently was a

partner at Reforge, a career-development platform and marketplace for tech industry professionals. She previously served in senior leadership positions at FanDuel and worked at Madison Square Garden, leading various marketing campaigns for the Knicks and Rangers. The New York native co-founded a company that ran competitive flag tournaments for adults across the tri-state area before the COVID pandemic. In her new role, Kwok will report directly to Troy Vincent, the NFL executive vice presi-

dent of football operations. "We are excited that Stephanie is joining our team to apply her proven leadership skills to advance the most affordable, accessible, inclusive, and competitive sport in the world," Vincent said in a statement. "As a flag player and league organizer and operator, Stephanie brings a passion to exponentially expand the game that has taken the sports world by storm and provides opportunity for all girls, boys, men and women to experience the fun and values of football." □